

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
21 April 2005 (21.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2005/036369 A3(51) International Patent Classification:  
G01N 33/48 (2006.01) G06F 19/00 (2006.01)(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/033742

(22) International Filing Date: 12 October 2004 (12.10.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/509,911 9 October 2003 (09.10.2003) US  
60/598,408 2 August 2004 (02.08.2004) US(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ISIS  
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94041 (US).(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SI, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE,  
SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,  
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

## Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the  
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of  
amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
6 July 2006For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DATABASE FOR MICROBIAL INVESTIGATIONS

(57) Abstract: A centralized system provides for locating, storing and providing microbial-related information, including pathogens, diseases, symptoms, genetic information, and related documentation. A centralized database relates pathogens to diseases that they cause, symptoms of those diseases, genetic information about the pathogens, and documentation that is associated with any of the above. By analyzing the stored data, the system recognizes duplicated information, for example a pathogen present in the database twice, each time under a different taxonomical name, and creates a link from one instance of the pathogen to the other. The system additionally identifies common genes and sequences among related organisms. A researcher uses the system to perform investigations. For example, a medical doctor can enter patient symptoms to obtain a list of consistent diseases and associated pathogens. The system also tracks the progression of an outbreak and identifies similar occurrences by searching the World Wide Web and reporting results.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/33742

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: G01N 33/48(2006.01);G06F 19/00(2006.01)

USPC: 702/19;702/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 702/19;702/32

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Continuation Sheet

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6389428 B1 (RIGAUULT et al) 14 May 2002 (14.05.2002).	1 ----- 2-15
X --- Y	US 6,553,317 (Lincoln et al) 22 April 2003 (22.4.2003).	1-2, 9 ----- 3-9, 10-15
X,P --- Y	US 2005/0065813 (Mishevlevich et al) 24 March 2005 (24.03.2005).	1-15
Y	US 2003/0082539 (Ecker et al) 1 May 2003 (1.05.2003).	3-4, 8, 10-11, 15
Y	US 2003/0187615 (Epler et al) 2 October 2003 (02.10.2003).	5-7 and 12-14

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"Z"	document recamber of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 March 2006 (21.03.2006)

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 MAY 2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US

Commissioner for Patents

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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/33742

## Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

East, STN, Biosis, Compuscience, Biotechno, Biotechds, Medline, Embase, WPI covering search terms: database, microbial, bacterial, viral, pathogen, symptom, disease, network, GUI, user interface, anthrax, infectious disease, forensic, request, query